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RESEARCH OUTLINE

Massachusetts

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Massachusetts. Before reading this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology, contents, and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. The major holdings include vital records; genealogies; local histories; censuses; and church, military, probate, land, and court records.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL,* the abbreviation for *Family History Library.* These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

A computer number is usually given. If you have access to the Family History Library Catalog™ on computer, the "Computer Number Search" is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

  UNITED STATES - CENSUS
  MASSACHUSETTS - VITAL RECORDS
  MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX - COURT RECORDS
  MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX, SALEM - CHURCH RECORDS

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

  UNITED STATES - ***CENSUS***
  MASSACHUSETTS - ***VITAL RECORDS***
  MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX - ***COURT RECORDS***
  MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX, SALEM - ***CHURCH RECORDS***

The record types described in this outline are the record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point
  220 Morrissey Boulevard
  Boston, MA 02125
  Telephone: 617–727–2816

- National Archives—New England Region
  380 Trapelo Road
  Waltham, MA 02154
  Telephone: 617–647–8100
  Fax: 617–647–8460

- Massachusetts Historical Society Library
  1154 Boylston Street
  Boston, MA 02215
  Telephone: 617–536–1608
  Fax: 617–536–1608

- Peabody Essex Museum
  132 Essex Street
  Salem, MA 01970
  Telephone: 508–744–3390
  Fax: 508–744–0036

- State Library of Massachusetts
  State House, Room 341
  Beacon Street
  Boston, MA 02133
  Telephone: 617–727–2590
  Fax: 617–727–5819

- New England Historic Genealogical Society
  101 Newbury Street
  Boston, MA 02116
  Telephone: 617–536–5740
  Fax: 617–536–7307

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- Boston Public Library
  Copley Square
  Boston, MA 02117
  Telephone: 617–536–5400
  Fax: 617–536–4306

Two important inventories of Massachusetts records are:

Historical Records Survey. *Preliminary Edition of Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Massachusetts.* Boston: Historical Records Survey, 1939. (FHL book 974.4 A2hg; computer number 465031.) This work lists major manuscript collections and their locations.

Wright, Carroll D. *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties.* Boston: Wright and Potter, 1889. (FHL book 974.4 A3cr; film 865449 item 2; fiche 6046869; computer number 311411.) Gives a brief description of the town records that existed in 1889 and which may still be available.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. Computer networks serve as another type of library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on–line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive E-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

Look for computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Massachusetts in local, state, national, and international sources. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of September 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
  http://www.usgenweb.com/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and nation.
- Roots–L
  http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/
  A quality list of sites and resources that includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers at Family History Centers do *not* have access to on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public and college libraries and at private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Corbin collections contain Bible records. These are described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. The DAR collection of Bible records is partially indexed. See:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States,* vol. II. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book Ref 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.)

Another source for Bible records in Massachusetts is:

Lewis, Ella May Swint. *Bible Records for Massachusetts Families.* Springfield, Mass: Lewis, 1960. (FHL book 974.4 D2le; film 844508 item 3; computer number 93090.)

Additional Bible records have been published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and other genealogical periodicals (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline).

BIOGRAPHY

The American Genealogical-Biographical Index (described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline) cites many references to biographies of Massachusetts residents. In addition, two comprehensive biographical encyclopedias are:

The American Historical Society. *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts, Biographical-Genealogical.* 13 vols. New York: The American Historical Society, ca. 1916. (FHL book 974.4 D3e; fiche 6046891; computer number 242505.) The Family History Library has volumes 1–4, 6, and 10–13 only.

Eliot, Samuel Atkins. *Biographical History of Massachusetts.* 10 vols. Boston: Massachusetts Biographical Society, 1911-18. (FHL book 974.4 D3eL; computer number 253130.)

Biographical sketches of many Plymouth Colony residents, including those who came on the Mayflower, are in:

Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620-1691.* Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1986. (FHL book 974.4 H2s; computer number 442131.)

See the "Genealogy" section of this outline for additional references to biographies and genealogies for Massachusetts ancestors.

CEMETERIES

The Corbin collection and the Daughters of the American Revolution collection contain tombstone inscriptions from many Massachusetts cemeteries. These collections are described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Many inscriptions are also in published town vital records. See the "Vital Records" section for more information about these sources.

A collection of index cards listing the burial place of Revolutionary veterans is in:

Daughters of the American Revolution. *Grave Locations of Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors of Maine and Massachusetts.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (FHL film 1307668–69; computer number 641518.) Lists birth, death, and burial information as well as the unit in which they served. Sometimes it will list the spouse and marriage date and place.

A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts is:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library. *Index to United States Cemeteries.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL film 1206468–94; computer number 475648.) Film 1206475 includes Massachusetts among other states.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

MASSACHUSETTS - CEMETERIES
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

CENSUS

Federal Censuses

Most federal census records are at the Family History Library (records for 1790–1920), the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information about these records.

Population Schedules.

Missing records:

- 1800 Suffolk County census is mostly lost.
- 1890 census was destroyed, except for a list of Civil War Union soldiers, which has a published index.

Statewide indexes to federal censuses:

- 1790–1860: book indexes
- 1790–1850: microfiche indexes
- 1870 Hampden County: book index
- 1880 (partial), 1900, and 1920: Soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm
- 1910: *no* index for Massachusetts

Town indexes to federal censuses:

- Can sometimes help locate names missed in statewide indexes.
- Are sometimes listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN]-CENSUS

If an index is not available or omits a name:

- Look for the name in the census.
- In large cities first find the person's address in the city directory for the same year as the census (see the "Directories" section of this outline). Then look for that address in the census.

The following reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *A Handy Guide to Record-Searching in the Larger Cities of the United States.* Logan, Utah: Everton, 1974. (FHL book 973 D27kc; fiche 6010059-60; computer number 55656.) Includes ward maps and street indexes for Boston for 1850–1855, 1860, and 1877.

United States. Census Office. *Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumeration Districts.*
1870 (FHL film 1402859; computer number 299425)
1880 (FHL film 1402861; computer number 299426)

1900 (FHL film 1303022; computer number 117685)
1910 (FHL film 1374005; computer number 176643)
1920 (FHL film 1842708; computer number 687949)

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages*. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340; computer number 678265.) Lists all Massachusetts towns (or wards) with their 1910 census enumeration district numbers and FHL film numbers. Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Somerville, Springfield, and Worcester each have special instructions. These often include FHL book or film numbers for city directories.

Malmberg, Emil and Maurine. *Street Indexes to Unindexed Cities in the U.S. 1910 Federal Census*. Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1993. (FHL book 973 X2str 1910; fiche 6104151; computer number 709519.) Lists Boston street addresses with their corresponding page numbers, 1910 census enumeration district numbers, and FHL film numbers.

Marnier, Mary Lou and Patricia Rougham Bellows. *A Research Aid for the Massachusetts 1910 Federal Census*. Sudbury, Mass.: Computerized Assistance, 1988. (FHL book 974 X22m; computer number 496539.) This book gives the wards, precincts, enumeration districts, and starting page for each town. Includes maps. Refers to the National Archives microfilm numbers, which can be matched to Family History Library microfilm numbers.

Mortality Schedules. Mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 list those who died in the year before the census. These are at the Massachusetts State Archives, the National Archives, and the Family History Library:

1850 (FHL film 1421015–16; computer number 288912)
1860 (FHL film 1421017; computer number 459531)
1870 (FHL film 1421018–19; computer number 459539)
1880 (FHL film 1421020–23; computer number 459550)

Master Indexes. Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into one master index of several census years, states, and census types, such as:

FamilyFinder™ Index and Viewer: Version 4.0 [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9, 1997 index; computer number 808500. Not available at Family History Centers.) A master index of Massachusetts 1790 to 1860 federal censuses.

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records*. Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number, but available at many Family History Centers.) Massachusetts census indexes for 1790, 1800, and 1810 are combined on Search 1. Separate Massachusetts indexes for 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 are on other searches.

State Censuses (1855, 1865)

The original censuses are at the Massachusetts State Archives. The Family History Library has copies of:

Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth. *State Census, 1855–1865*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (On 68 FHL films; computer number 377373.) These records are arranged by county and town. They list an individual's name, age, state or country of birth, and occupation.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the major religious groups in Massachusetts were the Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians. The Congregational Church was the predominant church until the end of the 18th century. Many church records were published with the town vital records (see the "Vital Records" section of this outline).

1889 Church Records. There is a list of the churches in each town, the date of organization, kinds of records kept, years covered, and condition of the records as of 1889 in Wright's *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records* (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).

The Family History Library has many published and manuscript records of Baptist, Congregational, and Society of Friends congregations. A useful index of marriages recorded by early churches is:

Bailey, Frederic W. *Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800*. . . . 3 vols. in one, 1897–1914. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1968. (FHL book 974.4 V2b; film 874200; fiche 6051393; computer number 107407.) This book has records of marriages for more than 111 towns.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the

following addresses to learn where their records are located:

Baptist

American Baptist Historical Society
1106 S. Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14620
Telephone: 716–474–1740

An informative history is:

Brush, John Woolman. *Baptists in Massachusetts.* Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson Press, 1970. (FHL book 974.4 K2bj; computer number 228361.)

Congregational

The Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: 617–523–0470
Fax: 617–523–0491

A historical perspective is found in:

Goodwin, John A. *The Pilgrim Republic: An Historical Review of the Colony of New Plymouth, with Sketches of Other New England Settlements, the History of Congregationalism, and the Creeds of the Period.* Boston: Tickner, 1888. (FHL film 1465570; computer number 413251.)

Episcopal

The Diocesan Library and Archives
The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
138 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: 617–482–4826, ext. 504
Fax: 617–482–8431

For histories of the Episcopal church see:

Duffy, Mark J., ed. *The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts 1784-1984.* [Boston]: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 1984. (FHL book 974.4 K2e; computer number 302388.)

Tyng, Dudley. *Massachusetts Episcopalians, 1607-1957.* [Boston]: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, [1960]. (FHL book 974.4 K2t; computer number 46294.)

Society of Friends (Quakers)

Rhode Island Historical Society
121 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906
Telephone: 401–331–8575
Fax: 401–751–7930

An informative history of Quakers in Massachusetts is:

Hallowell, Richard P. *The Quaker Invasion of Massachusetts.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1883. (FHL book 974.4 K2h; computer number 477766.) Illustrates the persecution the Quakers received from colonial authorities. Has examples of the strength and conviction of the Quakers' religious beliefs.

Jewish

American Jewish Historical Society
2 Thornton Road
Waltham, MA 02154
Telephone: 617–891–8110
Fax: 617–899–9208

Lutheran

New England Lutheran Archives
Trinity Lutheran Church
292 Orange Street
New Haven, CT 06510
Telephone: 203–787–6521

Methodist

Boston University School of Theology Library
745 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215
Telephone: 617–353–3034
Fax: 617–353–3061

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215–627–1852
Fax: 215–627–0509

Roman Catholic

Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston
2121 Commonwealth Avenue
Brighton, MA 02135
Telephone: 617–254–0100, ext. 108
Fax: 617–783–5642

Unitarian/Universalist

Harvard Divinity School Library
45 Francis Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138
Telephone: 617–495–5770
Fax: 617–495–9489

COURT RECORDS

Massachusetts courts that kept records of genealogical value include:

1620-1865 ***General Court.*** This was an appellate court that gave rulings on estates. Its records are at the Massachusetts State Archives. Some records of this court are in the *Massachusetts Archives Collections* described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

1636-1693 ***County courts or quarter courts.*** These courts were originally called inferior quarter courts. Most of the records of these courts are in county courthouses, and many are on microfilm at the Family History Library. These courts were replaced in 1692 by the superior courts of judicature, courts of common pleas, and courts of sessions. Superior courts replaced the courts of common pleas in 1859.

1692-pres. ***Superior courts of judicature.*** These courts were replaced by supreme judicial courts in 1782. These were courts of appeals. The records are at the Supreme Judicial Court Building, 1300 New Court House, Boston, MA 02108.

1822-pres. ***District, police, and municipal courts.*** The first district court was established in Boston in 1822. The records are in the various local courthouses.

A large and complex collection of court records from Massachusetts and a few counties in neighboring states is:

Massachusetts. County Court (Suffolk County). *County Court Files, 1629–1797.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah. (On 1630 FHL films; computer number 260045.) The records and their indexes cover the years 1629 to about 1860. Many original court records are at the Massachusetts State Archives.

Abstracts of pre-1860 Plymouth court records are in:

Konig, David Thomas, ed. *Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859: The Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.* 16 vols. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier, Inc., 1978-1981. (FHL book 974.482 P2p; computer number 211655.) No index is currently available.

Transcripts of Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony records have been published by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (see the "Land and Property" section of this outline).

For more information about court procedures and records, see:

- Wright's *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records* (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).
- *Law in Colonial Massachusetts, 1630-1800.* Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1984. (FHL book 974.4 P3L; computer number 370886.)

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Massachusetts. The Family History Library, for example, has copies of Boston city directories for:

1789-1860	FHL fiches 6043615-73
1861-1935	FHL films 1376557—
1905, 1909, 1941, 1951	FHL book Q 974.461 E4p; on 4 FHL films; computer number 57784

Directories of several other Massachusetts cities and towns are also at the Family History Library.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

For information about immigrants, see:

- The *United States Research Outline* (30972). The "Emigration and Immigration" section lists national sources that include many references to Massachusetts settlers.
- *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111). This introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestor's original hometown.

People

1600s. Early settlers of Massachusetts generally came from England and Scotland and the other New England states. Plymouth Colony was first settled in 1620. From 1630 to 1642, fifteen to twenty thousand people settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Up to 1880. Significant immigration from other European countries began in the 1840s, when many people came to work in the textile mills. Prior to 1880 about 95 percent of the overseas immigrants to Massachusetts came from Britain, Ireland, and northern Europe. The Irish were the largest immigrant group from the late 1840s through the rest of the 19th century. In the 1870s large numbers of Canadians, especially French Canadians, began to move overland into the state.

After 1880. A significant change in immigration patterns occurred after 1880. A wave of Italian and Portuguese immigration began in the late 1880s and reached its high point just prior to World War I. Russians, Russian Jews, and people from Poland and other Slavic countries came in large numbers in the early 20th century. In 1907, for example, 80 percent of the immigrants to Massachusetts were from southern and eastern Europe.

An especially helpful source on immigration and ethnic groups in Massachusetts is:

Thayer, Mrs. Nathaniel. "The Immigrants (1830-1929)" in vol. 4 of *Commonwealth History of Massachusetts,* pp. 142–71. Edited by Albert B. Hart. New York: The States History Company, 1930. (FHL book 974.4 H2ha; computer number 491141.)

Records

Boston Passenger Lists. Boston is the major port of entry to New England. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Boston from 1820 to March 1874 and from 1883 to 1943. See the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Indexes to Boston Passenger Lists. These indexes are also available:

- Index for 1820-1874:

  United States, Bureau of Customs. *A Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Atlantic & Gulf Coast Ports (excluding New York) 1820–1874.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Services, 1960. (FHL film 418161–348; computer number 216582.) This is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

- Index for 1848-1891:

  Bureau of Customs. *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, 1820–1891: with index 1848–1891.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives Record Service, 1959–1960. (On 397 FHL films; computer number 217426.) This is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

  - The 1848–1891 index (above) to the state passenger lists can also be used to access the National Archives records.
  - Boston passenger lists for 1848–1891 are also at the Massachusetts State Archives. These include records for the nine years missing from the National Archives records.
  - Passenger lists for 1874–1883 are not at the Family History Library.

- Indexes for 1902–1940:

  United States, Immigration and Naturalization Service:
  - *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels arriving at Boston, Jan. 1, 1902–Dec. 31, 1920*
  - *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, Aug. 1, 1891–1935*
  - *Book Indexes to Boston Passenger Lists, 1899–1940*

  Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1944–1945, 1956. (On 597 FHL films; computer number 92077.)

Other Passenger Lists. Also consult passenger lists of other New England ports and for ports in Canada. For Canadian border entries from 1895 to 1924, see:

United States, Immigration and Naturalization Services. *St. Albans District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Service, 1986. (On 400 films, beginning with FHL film 1472801; computer number 42384.) There are soundex indexes for 1895–1924 and 1924–1952. These records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Published Sources

The following sources index names of immigrants to Massachusetts:

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index.* 11 vols. Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-. (FHL book Ref 973 W32p; some volumes are on microfilm; computer number 75625.) Indexes over 500,000 passengers to America from 1650 to mid-1980 in published passenger lists. Includes the immigrant's name, age, and year of arrival. Provides source list for all indexed passengers. The first three volumes are a combined alphabetical index that was published in 1981. Supplemental volumes have been issued annually.

Colket, Meridith B. *Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe 1607–1657.* Cleveland, OH: General Court of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, 1985. (FHL book 973 W2cm; computer number 271331.) Includes a list of those who came to the Colonies during the first 50 years. Lists names, dates, and

brief information about each immigrant and sources for further research.

Banks, Charles E. *Planters of the Commonwealth: Emigrants to New England in Colonial Times.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1961. (FHL book 974 W2bf; film 874196; fiche 6046840; computer number 271004.)

Harris, Ruth-Ann M. and Donald M. Jacobs, eds. *The Search for Missing Friends.* 5 vols. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1989–1995. (FHL book 974.461 H29s; computer number 511791.) A list of thousands of immigrants who left Ireland from about 1830–1850. Families became separated and began putting advertisements in the *Boston Pilot* searching for their relatives. These records include name, residence in Ireland, and various items of family information.

Anderson, Robert C. *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1623–1633.* Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, c1995. (FHL book, 3 vols., 974 w2A; computer number 106786.) Genealogical information about the early immigrants to New England. Each volume is indexed, with a cumulative index at the end of volume 3. Well documented with sources cited.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607–1776, and Emigrants in Bondage, 1614–1775.* [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 350 [does not circulate to Family History Centers]; computer number 784052.) A comprehensive list of about 140,000 immigrants to America from Britain. Includes Massachusetts immigrants. May show British hometown, emigration date, ship, destination, and text of the document abstract.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614–1775.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988. (FHL book 973 W2c 1988; computer number 490705.) An alphabetical list of English convicts transported to colonial America.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1661–1669.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1990. (FHL book 973 W2col 1661–1699; computer number 614339.) A list of those who emigrated from England to America, including those who were deported and those sold into labor. Compiled from English public records.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1700–1750.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992. (FHL book 973 W2col 1700–1750; computer number 649138.) A list of those who emigrated from England to America. Compiled from English public records. Usually gives name, age, occupation, residence, ship, destination, and precise source citation.

Bolton, Ethel Stanwood. *Immigrants to New England, 1700–1775.* Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1931. (FHL 974 W2b; film 874195 item 3; computer number 87360.) This list includes names, dates, place of origin, place of settlement, and some family information.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful gazetteers of Massachusetts have been published. Three of these are:

Guzzi, Paul. *Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities, and Towns in Massachusetts.* [Boston]: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1975. (FHL book 974.4 H2h 1975; computer number 229022; fiche 6051233; computer number 229231.) This lists the dates when towns were established or annexed, changes of town names, and extinct towns.

Lindberg, Marcia W. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research.* 3rd ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 974 D27g 1993; computer number 741018; 1981 ed. fiche 6051401; computer number 58643.) Guide to the records in each New England State. Includes dates when towns and counties were established. Gives names and addresses for the county records and probate offices, libraries, and historical societies for each state.

Nason, Elias. *Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts.* Boston: B. B. Russell, 1874. (FHL book 974.4 E5n; film 547258; fiche 6046886; computer number 237543.)

An alphabetical list of unincorporated villages and sections of cities and towns is in:

The Decennial Census, 1915. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1918. (FHL book 974.4 X2m; film 908760 item 1; fiche 6051394; computer number 254844.) See pp. 134-68. This is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS - CENSUS.

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. The following are some of the major published and manuscript collections helpful for Massachusetts research.

Published Collections

Many genealogies have been researched and published for the colonial states. Names of the earliest immigrants and settlers have been identified. Examples of numerous published collections are:

Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of the State of Massachusetts.* 4 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing, 1910. (FHL book 974.4 D2c; films 905528-29; fiche 6051241; computer number 115558.)

This and other series by Cutter relating to Massachusetts and New England are indexed in:

Ireland, Norma Olin and Winifred Irving. *Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's Nine Genealogy Series.* Fallbrook, Calif.: Ireland Indexing Service, [197-]. (FHL book 974 D22i; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737; computer number 122007.)

Greenlaw, William Prescott. *The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.* 2 vols. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1979. (FHL Ref book Q 974 D22g; computer number 40822.) This is an index to many local histories and genealogies published between 1900 and about 1940.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. *English Origins of New England Families: from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register.* First Series, 3 vols., 1984. Second Series, 3 vols., 1985. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing. (FHL book 974 D2e; First Series fiche 6047919; computer number 282008; Second Series fiche 6047922; computer number 343700.) Multi-generation genealogies several pages long.

Pope, Charles Henry. *The Pioneers of Massachusetts.* 1900. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 974.4 D2p; film 924405 fiche 6046669; computer number 85046.) This includes genealogical information found in various local records for 1620–1650.

Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index.* Vols. 1-186+. Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2; on 31 FHL films; computer number 49554.) This is a continuing series. An earlier version of 48 volumes was published as *The American Genealogical Index,* 1942-1951. Over 4 million brief citations (name, date, and source) to manuscripts, periodicals, books, and the *Boston Transcript.* The earlier version indexed 350 sources. The second version includes the original 350 sources and an additional 800 sources.

To help understand the source citations and to locate the original sources, use the colored pages in some volumes of:

Clark, Patricia L. and Dorothy Huntsman, eds. *Key Title Index to the American Genealogical-Biographical Index.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL book 973 D22am index; film 1698167 item 4; fiche 6088377; computer number 491052.) Lists sources that are at the Family History Library and their call numbers.

Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England.* . . . 4 vols. 1860-62. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1965. FHL book 974 D2s; film 496426-28; computer number 266986.) Alphabetical list showing three generations of immigrants who arrived in America before 1692. Brief sketches and genealogies of the families, with dates.

Collections

New England Historic Genealogical Society. This society has several important manuscript collections. The society's card catalog is on microfilm at the Family History Library:

New England Genealogical Society (Boston, Massachusetts). *Genealogical Card Catalog, A-Z.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1970. (On 19 FHL films; computer number 338222.)

One of the Society's manuscript collections is:

Corbin, Walter E. *Corbin Manuscript Collection in New England Historic Genealogical Society.* [S.l.: s.n.], 1982. (FHL film 928633–92; computer number 152864.) This collection covers central and western Massachusetts and includes local histories, church records, town records, genealogies, and Bible and cemetery transcripts. It is helpful for the years 1650–1850.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collections. See:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Massachusetts). *Genealogical Collection.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 39 films, beginning with FHL film 859313; computer number 468271.) This important collection includes transcripts of many Bible, cemetery, church, obituary, and other records of individuals born about 1700–1900.

Massachusetts Historical Society Collections. Manuscript collections at this society are described in:

Catalog of Manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society. 7 vols. Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1969. (FHL book Q 974.4 A3m; computer number 253436.)

Massachusetts Archives Collections. See:

Massachusetts. State Archives. *Card Index to the Massachusetts Archives*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972–1973. (On 57 films, beginning with FHL film 543878; computer number 73740.) These 328 volumes contain copies of historical documents from 1629 to 1799. They are at the Massachusetts State Archives. The Family History Library has only the card index to these volumes. The index is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INDEXES.

Family History Library. This index is especially useful for New England research:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Genealogical Department, Library Division. *Old Surname Index File.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 1058446–85 and 1058322–3; computer number 142606.) This is a surname index of some manuscripts, periodicals, books, and films collected by the Family History Library before 1964.

Mayflower Genealogies

Many records of Mayflower and Plymouth Colony families are at the Family History Library and other libraries. The Family History Library has obtained many published and microfilmed records from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The society is currently involved in a project to identify five generations of descendants of the Mayflower passengers. Twelve volumes, representing 17 Mayflower passengers, have been published to date (FHL 974:4 D2mf; volumes 1–3 are on FHL fiche 6049584–6; computer number 22306). Also being prepared is *Mayflower Families in Progress,* representing four generations of 11 names. See this title in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

Some Mayflower genealogies are in:

Genealogies of Mayflower Families: From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 3 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 974 D2gm; computer number 357458.)

The largest documented source on Mayflower genealogy by a leading Mayflower authority is:

Bowman, George Ernest. *Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants: The Bowman Files.* Boston, Mass.: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1983. (FHL fiche 6331448–71; computer number 262028.) Includes 232 microfiche cards grouped by family name, showing the descendants of the passengers.

Two helpful periodicals are *The Mayflower Descendant* and *The Mayflower Quarterly,* listed in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Massachusetts affected political jurisdictions, family movements, and record keeping.

1620-1691	The Plymouth Colony was established. It eventually spread over today's Plymouth, Barnstable, and Bristol Counties.
1630	Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded. It expanded to today's area of Essex, Middlesex, Old Norfolk (now part of New Hampshire), and Suffolk Counties.
1691	A new charter was granted to Massachusetts Bay Colony, uniting it with Plymouth Colony. Parts of Maine and Nova Scotia were also added to Massachusetts.
1775	The Revolutionary War began at Lexington and Concord.
1786	The Ohio Land Company was formed, resulting in the emigration of many Massachusetts residents to Ohio.
1788	Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the Constitution.
1820	Maine was separated from Massachusetts.
1830s-1840s	As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving to Massachusetts.
1861-1865	During the Civil War 146,000 men from Massachusetts served in the Union Army.

A good general history of Massachusetts is:

Hart, Albert Bushnell, ed. *Commonwealth History of Massachusetts: Colony, Province, and State.* 5 vols. New York: The States History, 1927-30. (FHL book 974.4 H2h; computer number 491141.)

A helpful bibliography of Massachusetts local histories is:

Haskell, John Duncan. *Massachusetts: A Bibliography of Its History.* Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 1983. (FHL book 974.4 H23m; computer number 276453.)

LAND AND PROPERTY

Proprietor and Town Records

During the colonial period, land was granted by the General Court to proprietors, who also granted land. These records are located at the Massachusetts State Archives and other repositories. The state archives also has records and papers relating to proprietary grants, land claims, grants of bounty lands to soldiers, boundary disputes, and surveyors' records.

After proprietors sold their land or a town was incorporated, town clerks recorded deeds and mortgages. These records are at the town halls; the Family History Library has copies of most of them.

Plymouth Colony records (1632–1701) are in:

Shurtleff, N. B. and David Pulsifer, eds. *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England.* 12 vols. Boston: William White, 1855-61. (FHL book 974.4 N2n; film 944128-29; fiche 6046866; computer number 93368.)

Massachusetts Bay Colony records (1628–1685) are in:

Shurtleff, Nathaniel B. *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.* 5 vols. Boston: W. White, 1853-54. (FHL book 974.4 N2s; fiche 6046893; computer number 253457.)

County Records

After a county was created, land records were recorded at county registry of deeds offices. Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, and Worcester counties have more than one office because they are divided into two or more land districts. Addresses of the offices are found in *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* (see the "Gazetteers" and "For Further Reading" sections of this outline).

The Family History Library has most county land records and indexes from the county's creation to the early 1900s. For example, see Suffolk County deeds:

Suffolk County (Massachusetts) Register of Deeds: Records of Deeds, 1639–1885; Indexes to Deeds, 1639–1920. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (On 1128 FHL films; computer number 350419.)

Boston and Suffolk County records (1629–1697) are in:

Suffolk Deeds. 14 vols. Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1880-1906. (FHL book 974.46 R2s; vols. 1-14 are on 5 films, beginning with FHL film 1033902; vols. 1-2, 4-7, 9-11, and 14 are on FHL fiche 6046903; computer number 83836.)

MAPS

Many maps are available from the Massachusetts State Archives. The Family History Library has:

Atlases with Massachusetts maps for the years 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1857, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 (FHL film 002083; various computer numbers.) These maps appear on many items on this film.

Massachusetts, Harbor and Land Commission. *Massachusetts Town Boundary Atlases, 1898–1916.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (FHL film 954154-56; computer number 184775.)

United States, Geographical Survey. *Topographic Maps of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.* Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1950, 1964–1965. (FHL map 974 E7uss; computer number 122979.) Has topographical survey maps showing home sites, roads, lakes and streams, churches, cemeteries, etc.

Ward Maps of the United States Cities. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, [1975?]. (FHL fiche 6016577–6016590; computer number 181937.) Has city ward maps for Boston for 1800–1896.

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Military muster rolls and other records are at the Massachusetts State Archives and the Adjutant General's Office. For Massachusetts the following sources are also very helpful:

United States. Army. Massachusetts Infantry. *Enlistments, Enrollments, Medical Examinations, Detachments, Oaths, Rosters, Election Returns, Discharges, Desertions, Resignations, etc.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988–1991. (On 38 FHL films; computer number 537932.) Microfilm of the original in the National Guard Supply Depot in Natick, Massachusetts, Telephone: 508–875–0678. The films include detailed records of Massachusetts volunteers, militia and regular army. Records are available for enrollments, enlistments, muster rolls, medical records, discharges, casualties, hospital lists, and deaths. The records include those of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection in 1899, the 1916 war with Mexico, and World War I. Information is indexed by state, military division, and medical facility.

Colonial Wars (1620–1763)

Numerous records of colonial wars have been published. The Family History Library has copies of most of them, including:

Doreski, Carole. *Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the Seventeenth Century Conflicts*. Boston: The Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1982. (FHL book 974.4 M24d; computer number 220742.)

Bodge, George M. *Soldiers in King Philip's War.* Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991. (FHL book 974 M2b; computer number 648350.) A concise history of the Indian Wars of New England from 1620 to 1677. Contains lists of soldiers, stories of battles, copies of ancient documents relating to the King Philip's War, 1620–1677.

MacKay, Robert E. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the French and Indian Wars, 1744–1755*. Boston, Mass.: Society of Colonial Wars, 1978. (FHL book 974.4 M2mc; computer number 103531.) Gives in-depth information about the years of turmoil among the French, Indians, and Colonists. It includes details about forming the militia force to combat the unrest.

Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

A man born between 1730 and 1765 who lived in Massachusetts is probably listed in some form of military record. If he supported the rebellion, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the rebellion were Loyalists or Tories.

For detailed records of the Revolutionary War, see:

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. 17 vols. Boston: Wright and Potter Printing, 1896-1908. (FHL book 974.4 M23m; films 238343-59; fiche 6046890; computer number 253495.) Lists soldier's name, commander's name, county of enlistment, service dates, unit, age, and stature.

White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of the Revolutionary War Pension Files*. 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1990. (FHL book 973 M28g; computer number 534698.) Includes names, dates, places, battles fought, and some personal and family information. These abstracts are mainly from:

United States. Veterans Administration. *Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pension & Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL film 840256-406; computer number 356373.)

United States. Veterans Administration. *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL films 970001-2670; computer number 178932.) 80,000 complete pension files alphabetical by surname.

White, Virgil D. *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*. 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1995. (FHL book 973 M22wv; computer number 755463.) Shows the name, rank, and unit of over 390,000 patriots. Transcripts of:

United States. Adjutant General's Office. *General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary Ward Soldiers*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1942. (FHL film 882841-98; computer number 280117.)

The service records and pension files for Revolutionary War patriots are available at the Family History Library. For more information, see *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118). You can also use NATF Form 80 to obtain copies of some records from the National Archives for a fee.

War of 1812 (1812–1815)

The following are good sources for those who fought in the War of 1812:

White, Virgil D., transcriber. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* Waynesboro, Tenn., National Historical Publishing Co., 1992. (FHL book 973 m22i 1992, 2 vols.; computer number 690247.) Transcribed from the National Archives microfilms.

United States Veterans Administration. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files.* Washington, D.C.; National Archives, 1960. (On 102 films, beginning with FHL film 840431; computer number 113898.)

Adjutant General of Massachusetts. *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia.* [Boston?]: Gardner W. Pearson, 1913 (Boston: Wright and Potter Printing, 1913. (FHL book Q 974.4 M23ma; film 1033995 item 5; computer number 320996.) Lists commander, unit, soldier's name, and service dates. Indexed.

Civil War (1861–1865)

During the Civil War 146,000 men from Massachusetts served in the Union Army. The Family History Library has many records for individual regiments. See the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for detailed listings under MASSACHUSETTS - MILITARY RECORDS - CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865.

Some excellent volumes on Civil War soldiers are:

Adjutant General of Massachusetts. *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines of the Civil War.* 9 vols. Norwood, Mass.: Norwood Press, 1931–1935. (FHL book 974.4 M2ma; film 238362-70; computer number 333449.) Includes brief unit histories and unit rosters with each serviceman's name, rank, residence, age, occupation, enlistment date, and release date and place.

Higginson, Thomas W. *Massachusetts in the Army and Navy during the War of 1861-1865.* 2 vols. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1895-96. (FHL book 974.4 M25ht; film 238371-72; fiche 6051395–96; computer number 365046.) Includes unit histories; lists of men killed in action; officers; and rosters giving name, rank, unit, birthplace, and service dates.

Indexes to service and pension records of Union Army volunteers are on microfilm at the Family History Library. The service and pension records have not been filmed and are only at the National Archives. Many published histories of regiments and other units are also available.

Most military records for the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War (1898), and more recent wars are at:

War Records Office of the Adjutant General,
Room 1000
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, MA 02202
Telephone: 617–727–2964

World War I (1917–1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For Massachusetts cards see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Massachusetts, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 162 FHL films, beginning with film 1684875; computer number 756746.)

To find an individual's draft card, you must know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had more. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you determine the board number if he lived in a large city. For a map showing Boston draft board boundaries and numbers, see FHL film 1498803.

The State of Massachusetts, during World War I, operated an information service for the families of those who were in the various branches of the armed forces. These records are:

"Casualties from Massachusetts in World War I, 1918," *Enlistments, Enrollments, Medical Examinations, Detachments. . . .* (On 15 films, beginning with FHL film 1544205; computer number 537932.) See the beginning of the "Military Records" section in this outline.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records were filed in the various county and district courts. The Family History Library has some microfilm copies of these records.

New England naturalization records for 1791 to 1906 were copied and indexed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s. Some of the records are more recent than 1906. The index gives the name and location of the court, the date of naturalization, and the volume and page number (or certificate number) of the naturalization record. The copies and index are at the National Archives—New England Region. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., and the Family History Library have microfilm copies of the index:

United States, Immigration and Naturalization Service. *Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791–1906.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1983. (FHL films 1429671-787; computer number 305194.)

The Family History Library also has:

United States, District Court (Massachusetts). *Naturalization Index Cards, 1790–1926.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1985. (FHL films 1420205-21; computer number 408670.) An index to naturalization records of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Circuit Court for Massachusetts. A letter *M* beside the petition number indicates that it is a military naturalization.

Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Returns of Naturalization before Various Massachusetts Courts, 1885–1931.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993. (On 9 films, beginning with FHL film 1901984; computer number 728410.) These documents are also at the Massachusetts State Archives. Most years have full name indexes. List name, age, occupation, residence, date of naturalization, and witnesses.

Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Indexes to Returns of Naturalization, 1920–1923, 1924–1925.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1994. (On 7 FHL films, beginning with film 1940387; computer number 728652.) Card index is also available at the Massachusetts State Archives. Each index card typically lists name, residence (town), occupation, court, age, and date.

United States. District Court (Massachusetts). *Naturalization Records, 1906–1917.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1578248–302; computer number 462155.) Microfilms of originals are also in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Most volumes are individually indexed. Petitions list court district, name, residence, occupation, date and place of petition, port and date of embarkment, port of arrival, vessel, citizenship date, spouse, children, and their birth dates and places.

For information on naturalization records after 1906, contact the National Archives—New England Region and:

Immigration and Naturalization Service
U.S. Department of Justice
JFK Federal Building, Government Center
Boston, MA 02203
Telephone: 617–565–3879

NEWSPAPERS

Many Massachusetts newspapers have been published since the 1700s. Copies of these are at the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and other libraries.

A statewide index of newspaper items is:

American Antiquarian Society. *Index of Marriages in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840.* Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1961. (FHL book 974.4 V22i; computer number 91385.)

To locate additional indexes see:

A Guide to Newspaper Indexes in New England. New England Library Association Bibliography Committee, 1978. (FHL book 974 B32n; fiche 6051391; computer number 5148.)

The *Boston Evening Transcript*'s genealogical column carried valuable information from 1895 to 1963. The Family History Library has:

Boston Evening Transcript Genealogical Columns, 1895, May 1900–April 1941. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1955. (FHL films 014735–44; computer number 105195.)

Boston Transcript Genealogy Newspaper Columns, June 6, 1896–April 30, 1941. [Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 197–?]. (FHL fiche 6011001–6011680; computer number 6998.)

For two helpful indexes to the columns, see:

- The Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Connecticut, has published an index in *American Genealogical–Biographical Index*, where most names can be found (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).
- The Boston Public Library has indexes for 1901–1935:

  Boston Public Library
  Copley Square
  Boston, MA 02117
  Telephone: 617–536–5400

OBITUARIES

Obituaries in New England can generally be found in the local town or county papers. Many obituaries for Boston and the surrounding area can be found in:

Boston Athenaeum. *Index of Obituaries in Boston Newspapers, 1704-1800.* Boston: G. K. Hall and Co., 1968. (FHL book 974.46/B1 V28b; film 823596; computer number 257663.)

American Antiquarian Society. *Index of Obituaries in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840.* Boston: G. K. Hall and Company, 1961. (FHL book 974.4 V42i; fiche 6051402–06; computer number 91394.) The obituaries are abstracts of the news items and are listed alphabetically.

PERIODICALS

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Massachusetts research are:

The American Genealogist (formerly: *Families of Ancient New Haven).* 1923-. Published by David L. Greene, P.O. Box 398, Demorest, GA 30535–0398. (FHL book 973 D25aga; some volumes are on films, beginning with film 1425624; computer number 84191.)

Essex Antiquarian. 13 vols. 1897-1909. Published by the Essex Antiquarian, Salem, MA. (FHL book 974.45 B2a; vols. 1-4 on films 599729-30; computer number 213215.) This source has information on families of Essex County, mostly Salem and some Lynn.

The Mayflower Descendant. 1899-1937, 1985-. Published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 376 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116, Telephone: 617–266–1624. (FHL book 974.4 D25md; vols. 1–34 are on films, beginning with film 01250; computer number 261210.) Issues are devoted to information on Mayflower descendants, with genealogical history, places, and dates.

The Mayflower Quarterly. 1935-. Published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, P.O. Box 3297, Plymouth, MA 02361. Telephone: 508–746–3188. (FHL book 973 D25mq; computer number 261240.)

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 1847-. Published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. (FHL 974 book B2ne; compact disc 33 pt. 1–9; some volumes on film; computer number 231574.) This has a cumulative index to 1995. Includes genealogies, vital record extracts, church records, local genealogical histories, and New England source material.

For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see:

Periodical Source Index (PERSI). Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987-. (FHL book 973 D25per; fiche 6016863 [set of 40](1847-1985); fiche 6016864 [set of 15](1986-1990); computer number 658308.) Indexes thousands of family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details see the *PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide* (34119).

For more family history periodicals, study the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MASSACHUSETTS - PERIODICALS
MASSACHUSETTS - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records were under the jurisdiction of the general court and the county courts until probate courts were established in 1692. Probate courts exercised exclusive jurisdiction over guardianships, adoptions, probates of wills, and administration of estates.

The original records are at county courthouses, and many of the records and indexes through 1880 or 1900 are on microfilm at the Family History Library. These include probate dockets, wills, inventories, accounts, administrations, and guardianship records. For example, for Suffolk County the library has 439 microfilms of probate records, dockets from 1636 to 1901, and an index to 1910. Indexes of the probate records of Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties have also been published. Each county has its own probate court. Details can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS.

Records of cases that were appealed are in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court.

A series of pre-1670 Suffolk County will abstracts, which originally appeared in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register,* have been reprinted in:

Suffolk County Wills. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, Inc., 1984. (FHL book 974.46 P2s; film 1320548 item 1; computer number 274674.)

Another source of early probate records is:

Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories, 1620–1639. 3 vols. Carbon copy typescript. (FHL 974.4 P2p; computer number 332121.) Contains records of wills and property inventories extracted from these wills.

SOCIETIES

State genealogical and historical societies may have records and services to help you with your research. The following are important genealogical societies in Massachusetts:

- General Society of Colonial Wars
  1316 7th St.
  New Orleans, LA 70115
  Telephone: 504–895–5013

  The Society's *Lineage Records* (with indexes) are on films (beginning with FHL film 528677; computer number 404247).
- General Society of Mayflower Descendants
  P.O. Box 3297
  Plymouth, MA 02361
  Telephone: 508–746–3188
- Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants
  376 Boylston Street
  Boston, MA 02116
  Telephone: 617–266–1624
- Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
  P.O. Box 215
  Ashland, MA 01721

- National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution
  1776 D Street, N.W.
  Washington, D.C. 20006–5392
  Telephone: 202–879–3263

  This society has published:

  DAR Patriot Index: Centennial Edition. 3 vols. Washington, D.C.: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1994. (FHL book 973 C42da 1990; computer number 696544.)

- The Pilgrim Society
  75 Court Street
  Plymouth, MA 02360
  Telephone: 508–746–1620
  Fax: 508–747–4228

- New England Historic Genealogical Society
  101 Newbury Street
  Boston, MA 02116–3087
  Telephone: 617–536–5740
  Fax: 617–536–7307

TAXATION

Tax records were recorded by state and town officials. They help identify the residence of the taxpayer. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of state tax valuations for various years from 1760 to 1771, 1780 to 1792, and 1810 to 1811. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MASSACHUSETTS - TAXATION
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TAXATION
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TOWN RECORDS

The 1771 lists have been published in:

Pruitt, Bettye Hobbs, ed. *The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771.* Boston: G.K. Hall, 1978. (FHL book Q 974.4 R4m; computer number 85052.)

A federal 1798 direct tax census and surname index is:

United States, Secretary of the Treasury. *Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax Census of 1798.* Cambridge, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1978. (FHL film 940072-89 [does not circulate to Family History Centers]; computer number 211511.)

The original 1798 tax records are at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. These are described in:

Gorn, Michael H., ed. *An Index and Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax Census of 1798.* Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1979. (FHL book 974.R42i; computer number 300981.)

Boston tax lists of the 1800s are at:

Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston, MA 02177
Telephone: 617–536–5400

TOWN RECORDS

In New England the town clerk is the principal record keeper at the local level. The earliest records are called proprietor's records. Town records generally begin with the founding of a town and are kept to the present.

Town records may contain records of births, marriages, burials, cemeteries, appointments, earmarks, estrays (records of stray animals), freemen's oaths (men eligible to vote), land records, mortgages, name changes, care of the poor, school records, surveys, tax lists, town meeting minutes, voter registrations, and "warnings out" (of town).

The Family History Library has microfilms of many Massachusetts town records, from the beginning of the town to the mid-1860s. The original town records are at local town clerk's offices and at historical and genealogical societies. Some have been published separately or as part of town histories and are available in libraries with major New England collections.

VITAL RECORDS

Early Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths

Early vital records were recorded by town clerks. Records of births, marriages, and deaths to 1850 for about 215 towns have been published. Most of these are on microfilm and microfiche at the Family History Library. These often include information from town, church, cemetery, county, and other records. Although records of about 100 towns have not been published in book form, many of these records have been published in periodicals such as the *Mayflower Descendant,* with concentration on Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable Counties.

For Boston the Family History Library has microfilms of:

- Birth records, 1630-1799, 1849-1890
- Index to birth records, 1630-1955
- Marriage records, 1646-1889

- Index to marriage records, 1646-1955
- Death records, 1630-1970
- Index to death records, 1630-1848, 1870-1955

Many of the births and marriages recorded in the town records have been extracted and are listed in the *International Genealogical Index*® at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

The Clarence Torrey collection of New England marriages prior to 1700 is at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and on microfilm at the Family History Library:

Torrey, Clarence Almon. *New England Marriages Prior to 1700.* Andover, Mass.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985. (FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14; for source notes, see films 929494–500 [films do not circulate to Family History Centers]; computer number 338643.) Lists 17th-century marriages of Colonial New England with approximate dates.

Torrey's Bibliography to His Source Notes for New England Marriages Prior to 1700. N.l.: Williams Word Processing, 1984. (FHL book 974 V23w; computer number 741104.) Has an alphabetical list of his source notes indicating book title, author, publication date, and manuscript titles.

Sanborn, Melinda. *Supplement to Torrey's Marriages Prior to 1700.* Baltimore. Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991. (FHL book 974 V2t supp; computer number 467338.) Has additional marriages found in Torrey's notes after his death in 1962.

Sanborn, Melinda. *Second Supplement to Torrey's Marriages Prior to 1700.* Baltimore. Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995. (FHL computer number 757810.) Provides additional marriages found in Torrey's notes after his death in 1962.

State Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths

The Family History Library has records of births, marriages, and deaths beginning as early as 1603, although state records start in 1811. They can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS - VITAL RECORDS.

You can also obtain copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates for 1841 to 1890 by writing to:

Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
Telephone: 617–727–2816

Writing to the town clerk can be the quickest way to get birth, marriage, and death information. The Family History Library has some of the vital records on microfilm:

Secretary of the Commonwealth, Massachusetts. *Births, Marriages (1841–1895); Indexes to Births and Marriages (1841–1905), Deaths (1841–1971).* (On 398 rolls of film, beginning with FHL film 961262.) Microfilms of original records are in the Division of Vital Statistics, Massachusetts.

For copies of birth, marriage, and death records from 1890 to the present, write to:

Registrar of Vital Statistics
470 Atlantic Ave.
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617–753–8600

State your relationship to the individual you want information about and the reason you want the information.

The current fees for copies of state records are in:

Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces. Hyattsville, MD.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993. (FHL book 973 V24wv; computer number 1855057.) Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and the Family History Centers.

Divorce Records

From 1738 to about 1888, divorce records may have been filed in the county court, governor's council records, superior court of judicature, or supreme judicial court. After 1888 proceedings were usually filed at the county probate court and superior court. The library has some of these court records, including:

Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Divorce Index, 1952–1970.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (FHL films 959804-5; computer number 320119.)

FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of Massachusetts can be found in:

Crandall, Ralph J., ed. *Genealogical Research in New England.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1984. (FHL book 974 D27gr; computer number 254124.) Provides bibliographic essay on Massachusetts research.

Lindberg, Marcia Wiswall, ed. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research.* 3rd ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 974 D27g 1993; computer number 741018; 1981 ed. fiche 6051401; computer number 58643.) This is a guide to the

records in each New England state. Includes dates when towns and counties were established. Gives names and addresses for the county records and for the probate offices, libraries, and historical societies of each state.

Wright, Norman E. *Genealogy in America. Vol. 1, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine.* Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1968. (FHL book 973 D27wg; computer number 57539.) This contains a very good, in-depth study of state, county, and town records. Some information is out of date.

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources.* Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

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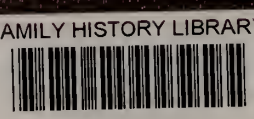
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